

Senate Bill No. 826

CHAPTER 687

An act to amend Section 12878.1 of the Water Code, relating to water.

[Approved by Governor October 7, 2005. Filed with
Secretary of State October 7, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 826, Maldonado. State maintenance areas.

Existing law authorizes, on a project-by-project basis, and in accordance with designated plans, state participation in federal flood control projects and specifies the degree of cooperation to be assumed by the state and local agencies in connection with those projects. Existing law establishes procedures for the assumption of flood control maintenance and operation duties by the Department of Water Resources in connection with the formation of a maintenance area on behalf of a federal flood control project unit. Existing law authorizes, but does not require, the Board of Reclamation or the department, as applicable, to proceed with the formation of a maintenance area if neither the board nor the department has given the nonfederal assurances to the United States that are required for the project.

This bill would require the board or the department, as applicable, to proceed with the formation of a maintenance area, in accordance with specified procedures, with regard to a project for which an application for the formation of a maintenance area has been submitted to the department by a local agency on or before July 1, 2003. The bill would require the local agency, before the department or the board forms a maintenance area, to enter into an indemnification agreement with the department.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 12878.1 of the Water Code is amended to read:

12878.1. (a) Whenever the department finds that a unit of a project is not being operated or maintained in accordance with the standards established by federal regulations or whenever the governing body of a local agency obligated to operate and maintain that unit by resolution duly adopted and filed with the department declares that it no longer desires to operate and maintain the unit, the department shall prepare a statement to that effect specifying in detail the particular items of work necessary to be done in order to comply with the standards of the federal government together with an estimate of the cost thereof for the current fiscal year and for the ensuing fiscal year.

(b) Subject to subdivision (c), but notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board or the department is not required to proceed in accordance with subdivision (a) or with the formation of a maintenance area under this chapter if neither the board nor the department has given the nonfederal assurances to the United States required for the project. If neither the board nor the department has given the nonfederal assurances to the United States required for the project, the board or department may elect to proceed with the formation if it determines that the formation of a maintenance area is in the best interest of the state.

(c) (1) Subdivision (b) does not apply to any project for which an application for the formation of a maintenance area under this chapter has been submitted to the department by a local agency on or before July 1, 2003.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), the department or the board shall proceed in accordance with subdivision (a) and with the formation of a maintenance area in accordance with this chapter for any project described in paragraph (1).

(3) Before the department or the board forms a maintenance area pursuant to this subdivision, the local agency shall enter into an agreement with the department pursuant to which the local agency agrees to indemnify and hold and save harmless the state, its officers, agents, and employees for any and all liability for damages that may arise out of the planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation of the project, or the dissolution or modification of the maintenance area formed pursuant to this subdivision.